

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-05 SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02 /033 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2943

UNCLAS LA PAZ 8723

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, BL

SUBJECT: ACTION:PEACE CORPS CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOB  
YOUTH SECRETARIAT

1. MR. JORGE CORDOVA, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, LATIN AMERICA REGION, ACTION WROTE ME ON OCTOBER 27 THAT HE HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE BOLIVIAN NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES TO SEND A CONSULTANT TO ASSIST IN PLANNING PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF ACTION IN THE US. THE LETTER FROM THE YOUTH SECRETARIAT ALSO SUGGESTS THE EXCHANGE OF VOLUNTEERS BETWEEN ACTION AND THE GOB AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER BILATERAL PROGRAMS. MR. CORDOVA NOTED IN HIS LETTER TO ME THAT THE PEACE CORPS IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EXTENDING ITS SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE POOREST NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING BILATERAL PROGRAMS WITH THE GOB. ATTACHED TO CORDOVA'S LETTER WERE A COPY OF THE SEPTEMBER 29 LETTER FROM THE YOUTH SECRETARIAT AND HIS REPLY OF OCTOBER 15 IN WHICH HE STATES THAT HIS OFFICE IS PREPARED TO SEND TWO CONSULTANTS TO LA PAZ DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF NOVEMBER WITH THE PURPOSE OF WORKING OUT BILATERAL PROGRAMS AND APPROPRIATE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

2. MR. CORDOVA WAS IN LA PAZ RECENTLY ATTENDING A REGIONAL MEETING ON YOUTH ACTIVITIES AT WHICH TIME HE MET SEVERAL BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES. IN A COURTESY CALL ON ME MR. CORDOVA SAID THAT HIS PURPOSE IN BEING IN BOLIVIA WAS EXCLUSIVELY TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AND THE HE HAD NO INTENTION OF STIMULATING ANY BOLIVIAN REQUEST FOR ACTION OR PEACE CORPS

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ACTIVITIES. HE TOLD ME THAT THE PEACE CORPS HAD RECEIVED NO

INQUIRIES FROM THE GOB ABOUT REESTABLISHING THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM AND THAT OF COURSE SUCH A STEP WOULD HAVE TO BE CLOSELY EXAMINED TOGETHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAVE FULL FOREIGN POLICY APPROVAL. HE SAID THAT HIS MOST RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT CLEARLY INDICATED TO HIM THAT PRIOR TO RECEIVING DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A BONA FIDE VOLUNTARY REQUEST WITH THE FULL APPROVAL OF THE GOB AND A DEMONSTRATED BASIS FOR SUSTAINING A NEW PEACE CORPS PROGRAM SO THAT IT WOULD NOT BE SUMMARILY REMOVED AS HAD HAPPENED IN THE PAST.

3. I AM DISTURBED THAT THE CHRONOLOGY SUGGESTS THAT FOLLOWING MR. CORDOVA'S VISIT TO LA PAZ FOR THE CONFERENCE A LETTER HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO HIM BY THE SECRETARY OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES. I AM AMAZED THAT MR. CORDOVA HAS RESPONDED WITH AN OFFER TO SEND A MISSION TO BOLIVIA TO WORK OUT PROGRAMS AND AGREEMENTS WITHOUT HAVING FIRST OBTAINED FOREIGN POLICY APPROVAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THIS EMBASSY. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES ARE BEING CONTEMPLATED NOR THE PERIMETER THAT THE YOUTH SECRETARY HAS OBTAINED CLEARANCE FROM ANY OTHER PART OF THE GOB, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING. I HAVE NO BASIS UPON WHICH TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE REQUEST WOULD INVOLVE DUPLICATION WITH THOSE PROGRAMS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTION. AS OF THIS MOMENT I BELIEVE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION UPON WHICH TO RENDER A FAVORABLE FOREIGN POLICY RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHETHER ACTION SHOULD START A BILATERAL PROGRAM IN BOLIVIA.

4. AS A CONSEQUENCE, I REQUEST THAT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT TAKE UP PROMPTLY WITH MR. CORDOVA THIS ENTIRE MATTER AND THAT THE OFFER TO SEND A MISSION BE SHELVED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE DEPARTMENT AND THIS EMBASSY CAN CONSULT AND FORMULATE THE NECESSARY FOREIGN POLICY DECISION.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**TAGS:** EAID, SWEL, BL, US, PC, ACTION, YOUTH SECRETARIAT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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